

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

JANUARY 17, 2002

IN RE:

**APPROVAL OF THE INTERCONNECTION
AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY BELL SOUTH
PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS, LLC d/b/a
CINGULAR WIRELESS AND HIGHLAND
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 251 AND 252 OF
THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

DOCKET NO. 01-00873

**ORDER APPROVING COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

The Petition for Approval of the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Personal Communications, LLC d/b/a Cingular Wireless¹ and Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 came before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority") at the December 4, 2001 Authority Conference. The Agreement was filed on October 10, 2001 and came before the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252.

Based upon the Petition, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252, the Directors unanimously approved the Agreement and made the following findings and conclusions:

¹ Cingular Wireless is a joint venture between SBC Communications, Inc. and BellSouth Corporation and a provider of Commercial Mobile Radio Services in Tennessee.

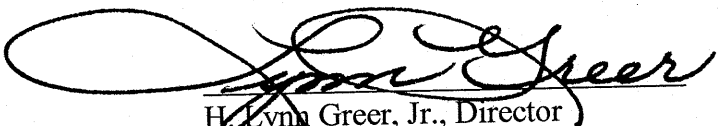
- 1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.
- 2) The Agreement is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services in Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s service area.
- 3) The Agreement is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.
- 4) This is a Commercial Mobile Radio Services agreement and not an agreement between competing carriers.
- 5) By approving this Agreement, the Authority does not make a determination that the provision of wireless services to both business and residential customers within the Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. service area rises to the level of facilities-based competition under 47 U.S.C. § 271(c)(1)(A).
- 6) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.
- 7) The Agreement is consistent with previous Authority rulings and satisfies the standards for approval of negotiated interconnection agreements set forth in 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252.
- 8) The Agreement is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

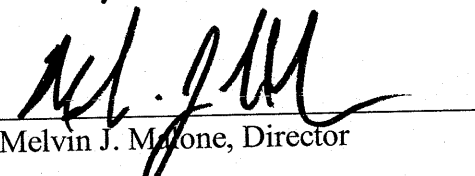
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Commercial Mobile Radio Service Interconnection Agreement negotiated between BellSouth Personal Communications, LLC d/b/a Cingular Wireless and Highland

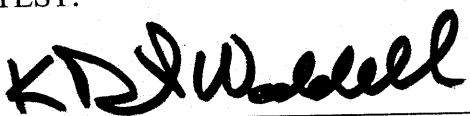
Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


H. Lynn Greer, Jr., Director


Melvin J. Malone, Director

ATTEST:


K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary